CD2006--40

FACULTY of MUSIC
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Thursday, April 13, 2006
12:10 pm, Walter Hall

Thursdays at Noon
presents

Lara St. John, violin

Partita in B minor BWV 1002 — J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
- Allemanda
- Double
- Corrente
- Double
- Sarabande
- Double
- Tempo di Borea
- Double

Sonata No. 3 in D minor "Ballade" — Eugene Ysaÿe (1858-1931)

Partita No. 3 in E Major, BWV 1006 — J.S. Bach
- Preludio
- Loure
- Gavotte en Rondeau
- Menuet I
- Menuet II
- Bourree
- Gigue

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BIOGRAPHY

Described as "something of a phenomenon" by The Strad magazine and "a high-powered soloist" by The New York Times, Canadian-born violinist **Lara St. John** has performed as soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Montreal Symphony, the NDR Symphony Orchestra (Hanover), the Zurich Chamber Orchestra and the Boston Pops, among many others. The Los Angeles Times has written, "St. John brings to the stage personal charisma, an unflagging musical imagination and genuine passion."

Well known in Asia, Lara St. John has performed frequently in China and Japan, appearing with the China Philharmonic in Beijing, the Guangzhou Symphony, the Shanghai Broadcasting Orchestra, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Tokyo Symphony, and in recital in Tokyo. Lara St. John appears frequently in recital on the major concert stages and has appeared in Boston, New York, Prague, San Francisco, Tokyo, Toronto, and Washington, DC, among other cities. A successful recording artist, Lara St. John's debut CD, *Bach: Works for Violin Solo,* sold over 35,000 copies and received resounding acclaim. The Chicago Tribune described Ms. St. John as having "superb technique and an irresistible vitality," while US News and World Report called the recording "an exquisite performance." Her second album, *Gypsy*, was described as "A sizzling display" by Gramophone, and The Strad called her "an electrifying player, as deeply satisfying in Bach as she is bewitchingly seductive in Waxman's *Carmen Fantasy*". Her third recording, *Bach: the Concerto Album,* again received favorable reviews, with Gramophone placing the disc in its strongly recommended section, saying, "It is difficult to argue with such a technically dazzling and unfailingly musical interpretation." In June of 2005, it was released on iTunes where it immediately jumped to No. 1 in the classical category. In May of 2004, Sony Classical released *Re: Bach,* featuring innovative renditions of works by Bach which climbed to the top 15 of the classical Billboard charts.

Lara St. John began playing the violin when she was 2 years old. She made her first appearance as soloist performing a concerto with orchestra at age 4, and made her European debut with the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon six years later. She toured Spain, France, Portugal and Hungary at ages 12 and 13, entered the Curtis Institute at 14, and spent her first summer at Marlboro three years later. She has won several competitions and was the recipient of a long-term loan of a Stradivarius. Her teachers over the years have included Felix Galimir, David Takeno, Arnold Steinhardt, and Joey Corpus.

Currently, she performs on the 1779 "Salabue" Guadagnini thanks to an anonymous donor and Heinl & Co., Toronto.